



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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A Message from the Director:

I am pleased to report that after careful analysis and constructive negotiations with the wind power proponents, the Department has developed Wind Power Guidelines that achieve ways to reconcile support for renewable wind power projects with the need to protect wildlife and the State's habitat. These Wind Power Guidelines include innovative provisions that not only protect our native habitats, but also greatly improve habitat value with mitigation expenditures. There is currently little operational experience with wind projects in Washington State, and these Wind Power Guidelines are designed to add important studies and operational knowledge to our understanding of how to site, design, and operate wind projects to avoid and minimize impacts.

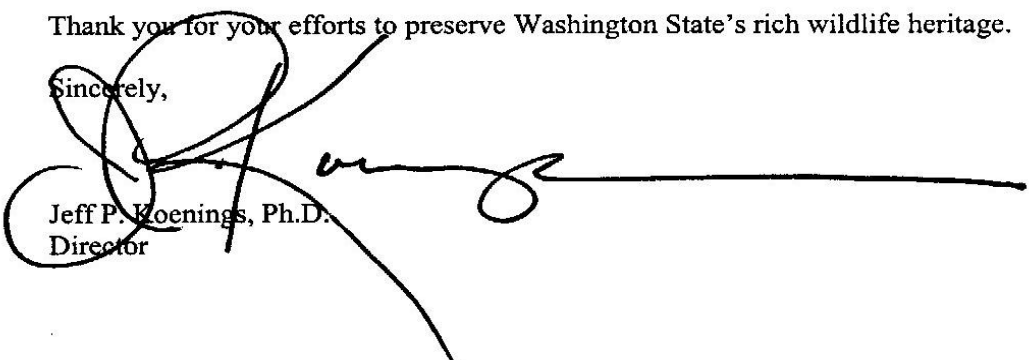
These Wind Power Guidelines, which will be used by the Department to shape its comments on wind power projects through the State Environmental Policy Act process, are divided into the following three sections:

- 1) **Baseline and Monitoring Studies for Wind Projects:** calls for pre-project assessments of wind power sites with the goal of avoiding and minimizing bird and bat mortality from turbine strikes; operational monitoring; and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to evaluate impacts and determine if additional measures are needed to address unexpected impacts.
- 2) **Wind Project Habitat Mitigation (conventional):** Steers wind projects toward cropland and developed areas and away from undeveloped native habitat; provides ratios for replacement habitat as mitigation for temporary and permanent wind project impacts; adheres to the principle of no loss of habitat functions and values.
- 3) **Wind Project Alternative Habitat Mitigation Pilot Program:** creates an innovative option for wind developers (as an alternative to #2) to streamline the mitigation process and ensure that mitigation dollars are spent on acquiring, restoring, and managing strategically important habitat in central and eastern Washington, where most wind projects are sited. The Alternative Mitigation Program is designed to use public funds for acquisition of the highest value habitat with annual payments from wind developers for stewardship of these lands, greatly increasing the value of mitigation expenditures vis-à-vis conventional on-site mitigation.

These Guidelines will be re-evaluated after five years and adaptively altered as needed. They provide wind project applicants with clarity and streamlined processes, require mitigation to not reduce our native wildlife and their habitats, and provide an option to partner with WDFW to protect and improve some of Washington's most important native habitats.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve Washington State's rich wildlife heritage.

Sincerely,


Jeff P. Koenigs, Ph.D.
Director